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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 9, 1993

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Base Transition Office Opens, Coordinators Named

The Defense Department today named the transition coordinators assigned to work with individual communities to help speed the turn over of closed military bases and announced the creation of a Base Closure Transition Office to support the work of the coordinators.

"These coordinators and the new Pentagon Base Transition Office clearly demonstrate the Clinton Administration's commitment to cutting through red tape and helping affected communities achieve total economic development." Secretary of Defense Les Aspin said.

The creation of the DoD Base Transition Office and the appointment of transition coordinators are elements of a five-part program announced by the President on July 2 to speed the economic recovery of communities affected by base closure and realignment actions. The other four parts of the President's strategy include a jobs-centered property disposal plan that puts local economic redevelopment first; a fast-track cleanup plan for bases that removes needless delays while protecting human health and the environment; procedures to provide easy access to transition and redevelopment help for workers and communities; and larger economic development planning grants to base closure communities from the Department's Office of Economic Adjustment.

Transition coordinators will be trained in all aspects of the base closure and realignment processes and will serve in their communities for at least 18 months. Initial orientation training was completed on July 7: expanded training for permanent coordinators will be completed in August. Transition coordinators will report to John Shannon, Acting Secretary of the Army and Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Base Transition. Shannon, of the Army and Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Base Transition.

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responsibility for DoD's implementation of the President's five-part program.

The functions of the transition coordinators will be to:

 Serve as full-time, on-site advocates to communities and installations affected by closures/realignments, and to cut through red tape and bureaucratic thickets;

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- Use their training and expertise in all aspects of the closure process-especially in the areas of environmental cleanup and property disposal—and to help communities move to a civilian-based economy:
- Work with the base commander, federal and state agencies to keep environmental
 cleanup on a fast track, to push for the priority treatment of parcels of land that have
 the potential for rapid redevelopment and job creation; and
- Work with the military department and the community to identify rouse needs and to see that those needs are accommodated, wherever possible, in DoD's closure plans.

The transition coordinators also will work with the Office of Economic Adjustment to help communidas identify sources of federal assistance.

A list of the transition coordinators and their phone numbers is attached.

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